

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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TOPIC Troop Review in Domazlice.

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DATE OF CONTENT 12 August 1951

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REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

REFERENCE COPY

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1. On 12 August 1951, a troop review was held in Domazlice (Taus, E 5/P 70) in memory of the battle of Taus. It was advertised throughout Czechoslovakia by posters and broadcasts. The troops marched past Defense Minister Alexej Cepicka and a Soviet general for more than two hours. Source estimated that between 5,000 and 6,000 men participated, coming from the Domazlice and Pilsen areas.
2. The unit observed included a tank unit of 24 T-34 tanks mounting guns with muzzle brakes; an AT unit of 12 70 - to 80-mm AT guns mounting barrels about 3 meters long, disk wheels with pneumatic tires and no muzzle brakes and towed by motor vehicles ridden by ten soldiers wearing black epaulets, an artillery unit of 10 heavy Skoda howitzers with very short and very thick barrels, divided into two loads, each of which was mounted on a four-wheeled carriage with solid tires and was towed by a 12-ton prime mover; a PS unit of about 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered green patches with doghead insignia and carrying pistols and German model 98 rifles; a motorized infantry unit of more than 1,000 men riding 50 24 troop trucks, wearing red-bordered black epaulets and, as far as officers were concerned, red collar patches, and carrying submachine guns, German-type assault rifles and model 98 carbines; the Tabor (O 50/M 01) cadet school of about 300 men wearing dark-blue uniforms; and a militia unit from the Pilsen plants numbering about 300 men carrying German model 98 carbines.
4. Only two single-engine reconnaissance aircraft were observed circling over the city during the review.

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* Comment. No previous report mentioned T-34 tanks with muzzle brakes. Either the observation was erroneous or tanks of the JS model, which mount guns with muzzle brakes and whose shape resembles that of the T-34 tank, were seen.

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** Comment. No previous reports mentioned Czech Army guns of the model described. The Soviet model 1938-192-mm cannon howitzer is known to be the heaviest piece.

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